

Seek the Lord, Study God's Word, Serve the World

## Newsletter May 2009



*Dear Friends and Family, if there are friends and loved ones whom you would like to have prayers for, or military persons on active duty, please contact the church office at 526-7577 and we will list them in our bulletin and newsletter.*

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER** ..... Pastor Gary and our church leaders.

**Undergoing cancer therapy** Daryl Barnett, Diane Voorhes, Geoff Connors (*Ralph Nelman's grandson-in-law*), Wendy Weathers (*friend of Elizabeth Hood*) Julie Rolph (*friend of Jan Yoder*).

**Under convalescent or hospice care**...Tommy Timms (cousin of Jeanne Fisher)

Hazel Gade (OSLC member), Tim Simpson

**Undergoing surgery, various tests, treatments, recuperating and continued comfort...**

Elsie Pusateri, Mike Moriarty (SVLC member), John Moore (SVLC member), Kristofer Maass (friend of the Baas family), Loretta Blake, for continuing strength and health; Kenny Kotwitz, to regain some vision; Dorothy Myers; John Yanuklis, Pr. Kenn Bergmann; Sammi Brazenor; Christine and Paul (Pastor Lynn's friends); Lydia Christensen; Eloise Cooley (Marcia's mother); Good Shepherd Lutheran School; Laurie Kephart (John Yanuklis' daughter); Millie McDermott (Mary Kotwitz' mother); Mary Milligan (friend of Pastor Lynn); Margie Schuelke (Mary Kotwitz' aunt); Pastor Leslie Soyster; Kelly Stemler (Carol Howard's daughter); (Marian's friend; Irene Tangren's daughter, Debbie; Pr. Paul Werfelmann, John Yankulis Jr. (son of John Yankulis). Marion Green (*friend of Sigrid Bremer*) Dennis Moore (Delores Moore's son *awaiting Kidney transplant*), Jim Geres (friend of Norma Studer), Hortensia Salcedo (Helen Anderson's mother), Jean Schlosser.

**WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR AMERICA, THOSE FIGHTING IN FOREIGN LANDS  
AND FOR THE CONTINUED STRENGTH OF THE LEADERS OF THIS GREAT NATION**

**Our Military Personnel now serving:** John Parker, Jay Cawley, Shane Denning, Tyson and Blake Crosby, Joe Anderson, Mike Hultman, Brian Lowen, Nick Goldsmith, Brian Richardson, Frank King, Michael Kidd, Nisha Dean, Dan Balaun, Chris Labelle, Raymond Schooler, Captain Ted Slocum, David Bond, Wayne Combs, Jeffrey C.A. Bower, Jonathan Scholberg, Brett Launer, Jorden Gutowski, Allen Steinke, Robert Deobler, Sgt Elliott Van Marion. Matthew Wilkins, Cpl. Brett Tyre, Travis Girard

**WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...** Sigrid Bremer on the death of her grandmother, Lorna Sinn and family on the death of her father and to Carol Jackson and family on the death of her father-in-law.



**WOMEN'S CIRCLES FOR May....**

**NAOMI CIRCLE** meets Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at HomeTown Buffet

**HANNAH CIRCLE** meets Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Lynn Bonelli  
2393 E. Alden 526-0745

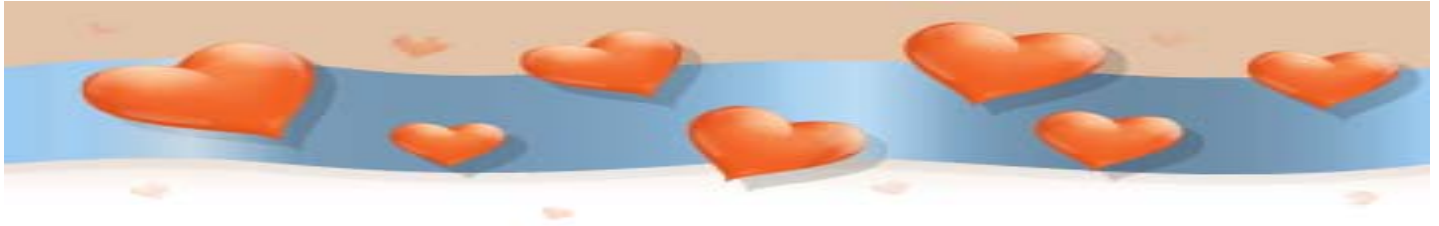


**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU...**

**For those of our church family that became Angels of Mercy for us recently while I had Bronchitis. Thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity in seeing that we made doctors appointments and therapy appointments and had some very delicious dinners and received your loving concerns all away along the line. We pray for all of you and wish you God's richest blessings. Thank you, thank you, thank you.**

**Love and hugs,**

*John & Mary Moore*



Dear Fellow Shepherd of the Valley Pilgrims,

It was quite interesting growing up in the 1960's and 70's. I can remember the upheaval felt in the church and society as well. My father was very active in the congregation where we were members and I can remember him serving on church council during a number of those years. One discussion regarding some of the tumult experienced by the congregation during those years sticks in my mind. At the time, a cult known as the Children of God, was known for entering churches during worship and having the members stand in the aisles by the pews in silence throughout worship. Once the sermon had ended, however, as one the Children of God members would shout, "Repent", before filing out of the building. The council, in an effort to be proactive, decided if the Children of God cult members showed up on a Sunday morning that worship would immediately be cancelled so as not to turn worship into an ugly spectacle.

I can also remember a time when the youth were going to lead worship one Sunday (I was still too young to be part of the "older" group.) and rumors spread that they could be leading music using a guitar. Some members said if a guitar ever showed up in worship they would walk out! When the Sunday came, the youth ended up doing just one song using a guitar. The song was, "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love." I don't remember anyone walking out. Perhaps it was no more than an idle threat, or perhaps those who found the guitar offensive didn't attend that day. Either way, neither reaction, walking out or boycotting worship because of a dispute over musical instrumentation, seems terribly "loving." Knowing the Bible much better now than I did then, I've always found it interesting that the Psalms mentions many times the importance of praising God with "stringed instruments" but never once mentions organ music.

I find myself praying a lot for the church these days – not just our congregation, but the Body of Christ, those people around the world who claim the name of Jesus Christ. Sometimes I even find myself crying for the church because of the times and ways we miss the mark. "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love," is a perfect way to describe what we are to be about. Yet in far too many corners of the world Christians are known more as being unloving or judgmental than for being loving.

Sometimes when I reflect on this I am reminded of Saint Paul's words from 1 Corinthians 13 regarding love. "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.... And if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing." Sometimes I want to paraphrase these words to something that makes sense to me. "If I build beautiful buildings so as to take someone's breath away, but have not love, I am missing the point. If I can put together a choir that sings with such beauty that it causes someone to cry, but have not love, what difference does it really make? Without love it's worthless. If we have the most exciting small group ministry or the broadest number of programs and ministry offerings in town, but have not love, why bother if they don't point beyond ourselves to Jesus? Etc..."

Perhaps the Beatles were right when they sang, "All We Need Is Love." At the very least, it's interesting to think about.

Your Partner in Ministry,  
Pastor Gary

# Y.I.M.A.H

(Young In Mind And Heart)



All those 50 years of age and older who are “Young In Mind And Heart”



**Where:** Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
In Eichele Hall

**When:** Thursday, May 21, 2009

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

For further information please call the church office 526-7577.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The ladies group of OSLC began saving stamps ago. Now that we have united as Shepherd of the Valley, let's continue this worthwhile mission. Please set aside any used postage stamps you receive, and drop them off at the church office or in the narthex. You can either leave the envelopes whole, or cut a quarter inch or more around the stamps. I will collect them regularly and send them as a donation to one of several charity organizations which use them to earn money from stamp dealers and/or for educational purposes.

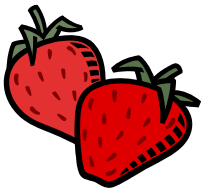


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I recently received a thank you note to the congregation from Stamp Camp USA (you can check them out at [www.stampcampusa.org](http://www.stampcampusa.org)) for stamps from the US and Britain and picture frames which were donated. I have learned that they need any and all stamps, even ones that are torn, etc. They also need any other philatelic and general office supplies, craft materials, used award trophies and small picture frames,

By way of full disclosure, I am a stamp collector. I sort and collect many stamps during the year and regularly mail donations of duplicate material on my own. I generally do not need the stamps you donate, but if I see one that I do not already have, I will replace it with more than one of my own. Anything you include for Good Shepherd School I will sort out and deliver as well. If you wish, please contact me at [stampdude03@gmail.com](mailto:stampdude03@gmail.com), or 805/581-2923.

Thank you, Bill Wacenske



Back by Popular Demand  
Belgian Waffle Sunday

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 9AM-Noon

Join us on the Patio for

Waffles, whipped cream, Strawberries, sausages, Orange Juice & Coffee

**\$5.00**

Proceeds for  
“Gift Cards for Friends in need”

Sponsored by the Women of SVLC



## LIBRARY NEWS

I hope you are all taking advantage of the library book cart which is on the patio every Sunday. It is full of our new acquisitions and lots of relevant reading matter as well.

With both Mother's Day and Father's Day coming up, we thought it would be interesting to put parenting books on the cart. If we don't have children, we probably have nieces and nephews or perhaps grandchildren. We can all use ideas to help the little ones have a happy childhood.

We also have books written for children on the cart. They can read them by themselves or, if too young, you can read them to your youngster. Please let the children choose what books they wish to take home and encourage them to enjoy the stories. These books do not have to be checked out.

Also, for our women who attend circle, we have a novel which tells the story of Esther and her experiences. I am sure you are learning the fascinating and exciting story as told in the bible and want to learn more.

Don't forget our Book Exchange. Donate your gently read paperback novels, and exchange them for ones you have not yet read. Why pay big bucks for a book when you can take one home for free?

Remember the Library is YOUR library. Please visit anytime and make use of all we have to offer. Suggestions are always welcome as well. Let us know what you want from us and we will try to provide it. Donate any suitable books you no longer need. We appreciate your help and interest.

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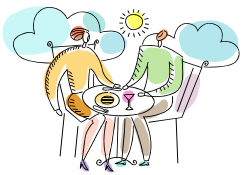
## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Spring has definitely arrived as I wander through the center looking at the different classrooms. Our silk worms are growing, our "walking stick" bugs are multiplying, and the rooms are decorated with butterflies, flowers, and beautiful colors.

Registration is continuing. We have openings for both the summer and fall programs. We invite your child to join us in the exciting experience of learning and growing in an environment of Christian love and support. Also, studies show that children who have preschool experience do much better in kindergarten. Call the preschool office at 526-9069 for more information.

Happy Mothers Day!

Terry Labrum



Mother's Day is upon us and Father's Day is not far behind. Time to think gifts for those we cherish.

Our wives and girl friends always enjoy receiving Bath and Body Works, Kohl's, Walmart, Macy's, Border's, Ross, Gap just to mention a few. And of course, a dinner out is always welcome. Men - stop by the SCRIP table for suggestions and advice if you are without a clue.

Ladies, the men in your lives would appreciate Lowe's, Home Depot, Staples, Men's Wearhouse, Golfsmith or possibly REI or Eddie Bauer or buy a Regal Theater gift card and take him to a romantic movie.

The most important thing, however, is to remember to buy and use the gift cards we sell so that a portion of the cost will end up in the church to fund repairs and benevolence.

We always have a large selection on hand, but can always order for you if we don't have it. It will normally arrive by the following Sunday.

So THINK SCRIP and don't just think it, BUY SCRIP!



## Good Shepherd Lutheran School Shopping for Students Contest Update:

Please help our school earn more points in the *Simi Valley Town Center Shopping for Students* contest by turning in your mall receipts to either the church office or place in the designated box in the narthex (envelopes are provided). If you wish, you may take your receipts to the *Guest Services Center* in the mall and have them logged for GSLS there.

**Bonus points** will be awarded this month for jewelry store and restaurant purchases—we will earn **TRIPLE POINTS** for mall gift card and Coach receipts! **HINT:** When shopping at the mall, buy your purchases with the gift card, then turn in your receipts for those purchases!

We are currently in 7<sup>th</sup> place out of 26! Thank you for turning in your mall receipts for GSLS! This program runs through April 30, 2009.



# School News

## Good Shepherd Lutheran School

A Christian community challenging minds and nurturing hearts since 1979



Volume XXX, Issue IX

[www.gsls-simi.com](http://www.gsls-simi.com)

May 2009

### OVERNIGHT TRIPS FOR GRADES 4-8

Every year, special opportunities for education are offered outside of the classroom in grades 4-8. The seventh grade class traveled to the Catalina Island Marine Institute in October for hands-on learning in oceanography and marine biology. Other special trips will be taking place during the month of May

#### D.C. Trip

From May 13-22, eighth grade students head to Washington, D.C., to view firsthand what they have been studying in U.S. History this year. Students will tour the capital city seeing the Smithsonian Museums, all the monuments and memorials, and praying for our nation's leaders at Arlington National Cemetery. They will also take side trips to Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown, Philadelphia, the Amish country, and Gettysburg. The trip ends with a visit to NYC

**Come take a school tour on  
WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS 9-3**

#### El Camino Pines

The week of April 27-May 1 saw the sixth grade students up at Camp El Camino Pines near Frazier Park. Students took classes in astronomy, forest and wildlife, survival, the Chumash culture, and earthquake geology. Added to this outdoor education are regular devotions and activities designed to foster the students' relationship with God.

#### Brig Pilgrim

On May 28 and 29, fourth and fifth grade students will participate in the overnight program on the *Brig Pilgrim* at Dana Point. Students experience firsthand the life of a 19th century sailor on a trading ship picking up cow hides to take back to the East Coast. Students will be placed on different crews, including the galley crew, hide gatherers, and riggers. They will learn about California history, the unfair working conditions of sailors at that time, and the reforms made in that industry.

Buy your auction tickets

**TODAY**

**Come for an evening of fun  
and fellowship on May 16.**

### Ministry Happens

If you put together some people committed to spreading the Gospel message, minds ready to receive this message, what do you get? Ministry.

At Good Shepherd Lutheran School, a strong academic foundation is taught right alongside the Gospel. Students learn how to live in this world as they build a faith that lasts a lifetime, an eternal lifetime.

Put together Lutherans and the Word. God will make it bear fruit. Ministry happens.



Leadership students bake cookies as a service project.



### News and Notes

#### SPRING BAND AND CHOIR CONCERT

Tuesday, May 5, will be an evening of musical offerings by our Good Shepherd students. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Scott Peters directs these groups. All are welcome.

#### REGION 1 TRACK MEET

Good Shepherd students will be participating in the Region 1 Track Meet at L.A. Baptist High School on May 9.

#### Go, Go JONAH-SPRING MUSICAL PRESENTATION

All of our congregation members are invited to Good Shepherd's presentation of *Go, Go Jonah* by students in kindergarten through grade three. It will be presented ONE

NIGHT ONLY on May 15, Shepherd of the Valley campus, 7 p.m.

#### STREET FAIR

On May 9, Good Shepherd will have a booth at the Street Fair. Stop on by and say hi. Children will be able to plant a flower to give as a gift to their moms the next day, Mother's Day.

#### REGISTRATION CONTINUES

Registrations are still being accepted for the 2009-2010 school year. Class sizes will remain small at our school, an integrated technology program will still be offered, and our music and P.E. program stays. Give your child the gift of a Christian education. Call the office for more information, 526-2482.



# ***Congratulations to the 2009 Confirmation Class Graduates***

Ryan Beautz – Kyle Berg – Zachary Gearhart – Victoria Schumann  
Daphne Strano – Keyrsti Thompson – Jessica Bihari – Megan Funk  
Holly Lewis – Kelley McLain – Alex Sale – Sara Zepeda – Anna Darin  
Karyn Honda – Shelby Joyce – Bradley Krueger – Kathryn Plyler



## **Youth Ministry Update**

### Elementary School Ministry

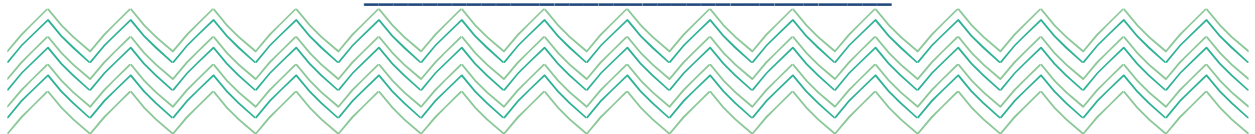
**Sunday School** is offered for grades K through 5 during the 9:45 am service. All are welcome! Children meet in the classroom at 9:45 am and return to the service after the sermon to take communion with their families.

### Middle School Ministry

Confirmation Every Wednesday  
Hang out at 6:30pm  
Classes Start at 7pm

### High School Ministry

Youth Group Every Wednesday  
7:30-8pm Hang out time  
8p-9:15pm Youth Group



## **Jesus Justice and Jazz ELCA National Youth Gathering Update**

**Upcoming Fundraisers:**

**April 26<sup>th</sup> Salad Luncheon**

**May BBQ Car Wash**

**June BBQ Car Wash**

**On going Envelope Project our biggest fundraising so far!**

**We are also collecting Ink cartridges to recycle for money!**

**Every Sunday the Envelope Project 100% profit to the youth**

**We have raised a total of \$11,884.19!!!**

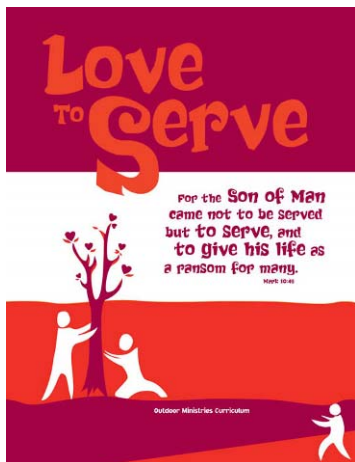
**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT**



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL/DAY CAMP!!!

July 13-17 9am- 3pm ALL DAY! Monday- Friday

## LOVE to Serve.



The VBS theme is based on the verse, Mark 10:45 "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." Jesus set an example for the world to follow. Schools are best when the teachers come to serve and not be served. What if the whole world showed up to serve, and not be served?

As disciples of Jesus, we will grow in faith if we understand our calling is to serve, not be served. We are a faith community where we practice service as way of life. Everyone studies, everyone plays, everyone cleans, everyone sings! It's an experience you can't have anywhere else.

***This year VBS will be an exciting opportunity lead by camp counselors from El Camino Pines!!***

*VBS at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran is for everyone between the ages of Kindergarten through entering Grade 8 in the fall.*

*We will have **Crafts, bible studies, story time, and so much more! Fun games, skits and drama!!** Also making **tie-dye t-shirts and much more!***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday\_\_\_\_\_ Grade entering in the fall \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Medical concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Parents\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone\_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell phone\_\_\_\_\_

Adult responsible for picking up child\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Home Church\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

***Registration donation: \$45 half day/ \$100 full day program***

***(Make checks payable to SVLC)***

***Bring an all cotton white t-shirt to tie-dye, or use an old white shirt and recycle it!!!***

**Save Gas and Save the Earth! Interested in Carpooling?**

Days available to Drop Off: \_\_\_\_\_

Days available to Pick Up: \_\_\_\_\_

***Return this form to the church office, offering plate, to Lisa Lewis or Elizabeth Hood, thanks!***

*Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church  
4191 Cochran St, Simi Valley 93063 - 805.526.7577*

# Mark your calendar!!

## May 31<sup>st</sup>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual joint worship service

The first two were full of great eats and fellowship with our fellow brother and sisters in Christ!

Shepherd of the Valley -Trinity Lutheran Church and Good Shepherd Lutheran School will join together for worship at 10:30 a.m.

The Barbeque will be held at Shepherd of the Valley following the 10:30 a.m. service



The 8:30 a.m. worship for Shepherd of the Valley will take place

**Note:** There will be **no** 9:45 or 11:00 worship at Shepherd of the Valley

Please bring your favorite dessert to share and...

We hope to see you all there!!



